

1st

Murth^r upon Murth^r :

Being a Full and True

RELATION

OF A

Horrid and Bloody

MURTH^r.

Committed upon the Bodies of

Mrs. *Sarah Hodges*, Wife of Mr. *Thomas Hodges*,
Mrs. *Elizabeth Smith* and *Hannah Williams*, at
the Loyal Coffee-House near *Well-Close* at the
end of *East-Smith-field*, on *Saturday* the 17th. of
this Instant *January 1691*.

19. Jan. 1691.

U Pon the day aforelaid, about Twelve a Clock, a Tub-
woman that carries Ale and Beer to private Houses, &c.
came accidentally into a House called, *The Loyal Coffee-
House* in *Ratcliff-High-way* near *East-Smithfield*, about some
business; when she came at the Door, she finding of it open, or not
looked, entered; where finding no body in the House, she waited
for some time, in expectation that some of the Family would come, but
having tired her Patience, and seeing things lye about the House in
Disorder, no Fire being kindled, &c. she began to suspect all was not
well: She then called, but no body answering, she enquired of the
Neighbours, If they had seen any of Mrs. *Hodges* Family that day, (who
was Mistress of the House;) but they answering in the Negative, she
desired some body to go along with her into the House, for she said, she
found the Doors not locked, neither was any Fire on the Hearth;
besides, calling and no body answered. The Neighbours admiring as
much

much as the Woman, what might be the cause that none of the Family appeared, entered the House; where passing through a Room or two, they came to a back Chamber, where they (to their great Astonishment) found Mrs. *Sarah Hodges* (Wife of Mr. *Thomas Hodges*) most Barbarously Murdered in her naked Bed, her Throat being cut, and the Right side of her Head cut, and her Skull broke, that the Orifice which this Fracture caused was at least two Inches Diameter. This is supposed to have been done with a Hammer, or some such like Weapon, &c.

Then going into another Chamber, they found likewise Murdered in a most barbarous manner, one Mrs. *Elizabeth Smith*, a Lodger in the House aforesaid; she lay with her Arms clasped together, and her Face being upwards: whom the inhumane Murderers had stabbed in at the Ear, and wounded her in several places about her Head, that she lay as it were Swimming in her Blood; she was in her naked Bed likewise. And just by her Bed-side, lay Murdered on the Boards, *Hannah Williams*, the Maid Servant of the House. Against this poor Innocent Maid, the Villains vented their Fury in a large measure for they cut her Throat from Ear to Ear, and stabbed her in just above the Collar-Bone: She was found in her Cloaths by the Bed-side of the aforesaid Mrs. *Elizabeth Smith*, it is supposed that she was then going to Bed, but was put, by these Execrable Villains, into an everlasting Sleep before she had time to call upon God for Salvation.

The Husband of this Mrs. *Hodges*, is now at Sea, a Mate of a Ship, and little thinks what a Tragedy has been acted in his House; and Mrs. *Elizabeth Smith* is likewise much to be pitied, being a curious piece of Nature's handiwork, and wherein were displayed, the unparallel'd Workmanship of the Divine Creator, whose days are cut off by these inhumane, barbarous, and bloody Villanies; and indeed I want Eloquence to give them suitable Epithites. These Fiends in Humane shape, after they had thus barbarously dispatched These poor Creatures, took off Mrs. *Hodges* Gold Chain from her Neck, Rings from her Fingers, and cut her Ears to take out her Pendants; as they likewise served Mrs. *Smith*, and Robbed the House of every thing valuable in it, and then Escaped, without being discovered: Though we make no question, but as the Devil owes them a shame, he will speedily pay them.

Had not the Devil been very great with them, the Horrid Murder committed but three days before upon three Poor Innocents in the House of Captain *Giddings* (an account of which we have already given you) might have Startled and deter'd them from persisting any further in such Execrable Villanies. But their Consciences are Sear'd, and they are given over by God Almighty, having not the Fear of him before their Eyes, that they eagerly pursue the Devils Game with open Cries, and no Remorse. Therefore of such as these let all Honeff House-keepers beware.